

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4148
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN

CONFIDENTIAL CONAKRY 0597

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SHUM, GV, SG, IV, LI, PE, PR
SUBJECT: WEST AFRICAN STATES MINI-SUMMIT AND GUINEAN INTERNAL
MEDIA TREATMENT

REF: CONAKRY 0315

1. ACCORDING TO VARIETY OF DIPLOMATIC AND GOG SOURCES
IN CONAKRY, PRESIDENT TOURE RETURNED FROM MONROVIA SUMMIT
HIGHLY SATISFIED. MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MADE AVAILABLE IN RECORD TIME AND WITH NOTABLY EFFICIENCY
COPIES OF MONROVIA COMMUNIQUE ON MARCH 20, JUST AFTER TOURE'S
RETURN. RADIO BROADCASTS ON MARCH 22-23 GAVE
PROMINENT COVERAGE TO TELEGRAMS OF CONGRATULATIONS FROM
PRINCIPALLY AFRICAN BUT ALSO NON-AFRICAN, THIRD WORLD AND SOME
EUROPEAN NATIONS, SINGLING OUT SEKOU TOURE FOR SPECIAL
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PRAISE FOR HAVING TAKEN INITIATIVE IN EFFECTING
RECONCILIATION. GUINEAN RADIO SAVED ITS BEST AND MOST
FLATTERING TREATMENT OF SEKOU TOURE'S ROLE IN SUMMITRY
FOR DRAMATIC EDITORIAL ON SUMMIT'S HIGH POINTS, CALLING
IT "HISTORIC OCCASION OF GREAT MOMENT WHICH HISTORY
WILL NOT FORGET". BROADCAST LABELED RECONCILIATION
A TESTIMONY TO WORLD THAT AFRICAN UNITY COULD THWART THOSE

THAT TRY TO EXPLOIT AFRICANS AND THAT SUMMIT WAS A "DEFEATING BLOW TO IMPERIALISM". PARTY WEEKLY, "HOROYA", PROVIDED 28-PAGE COVERAGE OF SUMMIT, LIMITING TEXT TO REPETITION OF TOURE'S AND TOLBERT'S SPEECHES WITHOUT EDITORIALIZING. RADIO COVERAGE DID NOT DEVELOP ANY OF THEMES AT SUMMIT REGARDING FREE MOVEMENT OF GOODS AND PEOPLES, EXILES ABROAD OR PARTICIPATION IN ECOWAS.

2. COMMENT: LAUDATORY TREATMENT OF SUMMIT'S SUCCESS, ALTHOUGH CONTAINING SOME NATURAL HYPERBOLE, WAS NOT ALL THAT EXTREME. IT REFLECTED GOG DESIRE TO PROFIT BY RELATING GOOD WILL DEMONSTRATED AT SUMMIT TO GOG'S PERCEPTION OF POPULAR GUINEAN APPROVAL FOR RECONCILIATION, BUT WITHOUT APPEARING TO OVERSELL IT POLITICALLY. GOG MEDIA MAY NOW BE PREPARED TO LEAVE SUBJECT ALONE FOR TIME BEING, AT LEAST UNTIL SOME NEW STEP IS TAKEN BY ONE OR MORE OF SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS TO IMPLEMENT DECISIONS TAKEN AT MONROVIA.

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Message Attributes

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